

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 11, 2020

Andrew Wheeler
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Wheeler:

We write to express support for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's (ODEQ) application for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Targeted Airshed Grant during the 2020 competition cycle. ODEQ is applying in partnership with Klamath County Public Health.

Since its designation as a nonattainment area in 2009, Klamath County has worked alongside ODEQ to introduce clean air policy, deliver public health education, and implement woodstove replacement programs to ensure permanent reductions in PM2.5 emissions from wood smoke, prescribed forestry, and agricultural field burning.

Of particular note, Klamath County has made significant efforts to carry out environmental objectives aimed at improving air quality. In the past 10 years, efforts to educate the community about the benefits of switching to non-wood burning heat sources, alongside funds from the City of Klamath Falls, EPA, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), have resulted in the replacement of 584 woodstoves and 5.5 tons of reduced emissions.

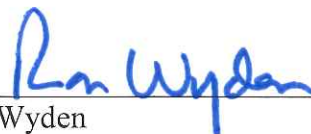
The Klamath County Targeted Airshed Program aims to use EPA resources to expand and continue these efforts. These funds will aim to ensure permanent reductions in PM2.5 emissions via a number of proposed projects such as increasing the number and accessibility of clean air spaces during prolonged wildfire seasons, continued replacement of woodstoves with non-wood burning sources, and a study weighing the benefits of upgrading public transportation and school buses to low emission buses.

Please give full and fair consideration to Klamath County and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's application for this 2020 round of Targeted Airshed Grant allocations. Please call Amy Amrhein in Senator Merkley's Medford office at 541-608-9102 or Jacob Egler in Senator Wyden's Bend office at 541-330-9605 with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Merkley
U.S. Senator



Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator